

## Agency 29 - Department Of Natural Resources

### Statutory Authority:

Authority for creation, duties and operation of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Director, and the Natural Resources Commission is contained in the Nebraska Constitution, Article XV, Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7; Nebraska Statutes: Chapter 2, Articles 15, 32 and 46; Chapter 11, Article 1; Chapter 16, Article 6; Chapter 31, Articles 4, 5, and 10; Chapter 33, Article 1, all of Chapter 46; Chapter 54, Article 24; Chapter 56, Article 1; Chapter 61, Article 2; Chapter 66, Article 11; Chapter 81, Articles 1, 15 and 26; and Chapter 84, Articles 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 14, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska including the 2000, 2001, and 2002 Supplements.

### Vision Statement:

Provide quality service with a professional work force dedicated to the management and conservation of the land and water resources of the state of Nebraska.

### Mission Statement:

Administer and regulate surface water; direct floodplain management and dam safety programs; assemble and share data on land, water and related resources in a user friendly manner; provide natural resources planning assistance; register ground water wells and issue permits; manage state cost-share programs in an expedient and cost-effective manner to assure proper use and protection of Nebraska's land, water and related resources.

### Goals:

1. Settlement of the Republican River lawsuit with Kansas or the effective prosecution of Nebraska's position at trial if settlement talks do not succeed. Establishment of the necessary process to insure the operation of the settlement or court decision.
2. Provide the Water Rights Division with the necessary technical and financial tools to insure that all well registrations and surface water rights are current and accurate. Development and implementation of all surface water rights information in an electronic format.
3. Achieve success in the Platte River Cooperative Agreement process.
4. Further refine an appropriate process for working with the State of Wyoming in administering the settlement on the North Platte River system.
5. Continue development of Geographic Information Systems to better serve the state and take initial steps toward establishment of a GIS clearinghouse.

### Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	16,952,914	13,959,058	18,404,775	12,733,205	18,503,091	13,231,303
Cash Fund	1,602,504	5,623,951	2,188,840	6,219,077	2,188,840	2,190,627
Federal Fund	392,705	210,000	422,000	467,556	422,000	471,594
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	18,948,123	19,793,009	21,015,615	19,419,838	21,113,931	15,893,524

## Agency 29 - Department Of Natural Resources Program 303 - Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund

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### Program Objectives:

1. Maintain the asset value of the Fund (cash and real estate) at a minimum of one million.
2. Make funds available for sponsors in order to expedite the construction of cost effective flood control projects.
3. Assist project sponsors in their utilization of the fund and management of lands.
4. Sell lands acquired in fee title on a timely basis to maximize the revolving nature of the fund.

### Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	96,000	24,000	24,000	0	24,000	0
Cash Fund	150,164	500,000	500,000	400,000	500,000	400,000
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>246,164</b>	<b>524,000</b>	<b>524,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>524,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>

### Performance Measures:

The objective of the program is to provide financial assistance to local units of government in the procurement of lands, easements and rights-of-way that are needed for construction of Commission approved flood control projects. Secondary objectives are to assist in accelerating the watershed planning process and to assist sponsors in all aspects of land rights acquisition and land management. The Commission has been assigned, by law, the responsibility for flood control programs, and the financial assistance provided to local sponsors for land rights acquisition under this program is an integral part of the total flood control program.

## Agency 29 - Department Of Natural Resources

### Program 304 - Soil & Water Conservation Fund

#### Program Objectives:

The goal of this program is to preserve the productive capacity of the state's land and water resource base through assistance to private landowners for the installation of soil and water conservation practices. A more specific goal is to operate the fund in a manner that best utilizes the funds available to achieve the highest level of "on the land" conservation. A special appropriation of \$500,000 per year was made to this fund in each of fiscal years 99, 00, and 01 to cost-share on water meters to be installed on irrigation wells in the Republican River alluvium and to cost-share on measuring devices for all surface water withdrawals. That program was later expanded to include cost-share on water meters in the entire Republican basin. Those installations are continuing.

#### Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	3,762,668	2,715,610	2,965,610	2,765,610	2,965,610	2,765,610
Cash Fund	0	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,762,668</b>	<b>2,720,610</b>	<b>2,970,610</b>	<b>2,770,610</b>	<b>2,970,610</b>	<b>2,770,610</b>

#### Performance Measures:

Description	FY02 Actual	FY03 Current	FY04 Request	FY05 Request
Appropriation	3,795,981	2,720,610	2,970,610	2,070,612
Expenditure	3,762,668	2,720,610	2,970,610	2,970,610
Claims Paid	2,073	1,600	1,700	1,700
Feet of Terraces	1,749,586	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Feet of Terrace Outlets	318,700	300,000	300,000	300,000
Dams	23	20	20	20
Grade Structures	22	20	20	20
Reuse Pits	3	5	5	5
Diversions	37	30	30	30
Acres of Waterways	1,193	750	750	750
Water Control Basins	42	40	40	40
Dugouts	22	20	20	20
Acres of Grass Seeding	4,246	3,600	3,600	3,600
Acres of Windbreaks	4,664	2,500	2,500	2,500
# of Planned Grazing Systems	314	300	300	300
Acres of Grazing Systems	150,348	150,000	150,000	150,000
# of Irrigation Water Mgt. Sys.	224	250	250	250
Acres of Irrigation Management	27,244	24,000	24,000	24,000
Water Meters	584	800	800	800

## Agency 29 - Department Of Natural Resources Program 306 - Water Well Decommissioning Fund

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### Program Objectives:

To provide financial assistance to landowners to plug or "decommission" water wells that are no longer in use so that those wells cannot serve as a conduit for contaminants to enter the groundwater aquifer or so that the well cannot be a safety hazard.

The funds are paid to Natural Resources Districts that administer qualified decommissioning programs. Twenty of the twenty-three NRDs participate in the program. The source of funds for this program is a portion of each well registration fee.

### Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	216,716	178,840	178,840	178,840	178,840	178,840
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>216,716</b>	<b>178,840</b>	<b>178,840</b>	<b>178,840</b>	<b>178,840</b>	<b>178,840</b>

### Performance Measures:

The only performance measure is the number of water wells decommissioned.

	FY 00 Actual	FY 01 Actual	FY 02 Actual
# of Wells Decommissioned	979	878	1317

## Agency 29 - Department Of Natural Resources

### Program 307 - Resources Development Fund

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#### Program Objectives:

The Nebraska Resources Development Fund (NRDF) was created in 1974 to assist with the development and wise use of Nebraska's land and water resources. Funds are used to make grants and/or loans to political subdivisions for projects that provide land and water resource benefits to the citizens of Nebraska. Project applicants must demonstrate technical, economic, and financial feasibility and environmental acceptability. Project grants can be up to 75% of a project's eligible costs and loans can be up to 90%. A grant/loan combination can also be provided for up to 90% of a project's eligible costs.

#### Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	2,265,053	3,606,400	3,606,400	3,081,400	3,606,400	3,081,400
Cash Fund	0	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,265,053</b>	<b>3,656,400</b>	<b>3,656,400</b>	<b>3,131,400</b>	<b>3,656,400</b>	<b>3,131,400</b>

#### Performance Measures:

The primary objectives for this program relate to the efficient operation of the fund and the use of state dollars to leverage other available funds for each project. This can best be achieved by keeping an even flow of new projects, projects under construction and projects nearing completion. Therefore, the performance measures presented relate to the number of projects in various stages and the dollars involved.

#### Approved Projects:

- Antelope Creek
- Enders Creek
- Lake Ericson
- Little Sandy Creek Watershed
- Western Sarpy / Clear Creek

#### Pending Projects

- Upper Prairie / Silver / Moores
- Skull Creek Sites 30 and 31
- Winslow Levee
- Leigh Dam/Reservoir

## Agency 29 - Department Of Natural Resources

### Program 308 - Soil Survey Fund

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#### Program Objectives:

The goal for this program is to maintain a modern and usable modern soil survey for the entire state and to make quality soils information available in a digital format. The dollars appropriated to the soil survey fund are, by law, passed through in their entirety to the Conservation and Survey Division of UNL, who is the cooperating soil survey agency in Nebraska. While the Conservation and Survey Division and the Natural Resources Conservation Service of USDA do the actual field soil survey work, the Department is working cooperatively with these two agencies to digitize the soils information so that the information can be available to users in a digital format. This is a primary emphasis of work at this time.

#### Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	137,553	144,496	144,496	144,496	144,496	144,496
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>137,553</b>	<b>144,496</b>	<b>144,496</b>	<b>144,496</b>	<b>144,496</b>	<b>144,496</b>

#### Performance Measures:

The field work for the modern soil surveys for all counties is now completed, with only Cherry and Sheridan counties yet to be published. Revised soil surveys to provide updated information to better complement today's technology and provide the best information to use with current applications are being completed on a priority basis. Sarpy, Gage, Kimball and Hall counties are completed. Survey work is also being updated in the entire Central Platte Natural Resources District. Preparation of soil survey information in digital format to meet national standards is proceeding with 76 of the 93 counties now completed.

## Agency 29 - Department Of Natural Resources

### Program 309 - Natural Resources Water Quality Fund

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#### Program Objectives:

The Natural Resources Water Quality Fund was created to provide NRDs with funds for water quality programs. The source of the funds is a portion of fees for pesticide registrations and pesticide applicators licenses collected by the Department of Agriculture. The Department of Natural Resources serves as the administrative body to pass the funds through to the NRDs. The Natural Resources Commission has established rules and regulations for the operation of the fund and the requirements that the NRDs must meet to be eligible to receive the funds. NRDs must provide three dollars of their own funds for each two dollars received from the Fund. NRDs are, by law, charged with certain water quality responsibilities and these funds are utilized by NRDs to assist in meeting these responsibilities.

#### Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	235,000	0	250,000	0	250,000	0
Cash Fund	1,015,000	1,250,000	1,250,000	1,250,000	1,250,000	1,250,000
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,250,000</b>	<b>1,250,000</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>	<b>1,250,000</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>	<b>1,250,000</b>

#### Performance Measures:

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### Program 331 - Nebraska Water Rights

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#### Program Objectives:

Nebraska v. Wyoming: The Special Master and the Supreme Court approved a settlement prior to the 2001 trial on the water rights lawsuit against Wyoming in 1986. The settlement will protect Nebraska's share of the flows of the North Platte valley and preserve the economic and environmental benefits that depend on these flows.

Kansas v. Nebraska: Kansas filed a lawsuit against Nebraska for alleged violations of the 1943 Republican River Compact. Nebraska has denied the allegations set forth in Kansas' Bill of Complaint. At the time of budget preparation, a settlement is being negotiated. Successful negotiations eliminate the costs of a trial, scheduled in 2003, however, until a final settlement is reached, the state continues to prepare for continuance of the litigation.

#### Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	4,717,354	2,000,000	5,462,875	1,031,923	5,262,875	1,009,663
Cash Fund	0	2,585,000	0	3,503,450	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,717,354</b>	<b>4,585,000</b>	<b>5,462,875</b>	<b>4,535,373</b>	<b>5,262,875</b>	<b>1,009,663</b>

#### Performance Measures:

Objective measures do not exist for inputs, outputs, efficiencies and quality.



## Agency 29 - Department Of Natural Resources

### Program 334 - Soil & Water Conservation

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#### Program Objectives:

This program consists of nearly all personnel and represents the majority of the agency's functions, as well as administration of five aid programs. Activities include administration of water rights, flood plain and dam safety programs; planning, groundwater registrations, and implementation of cooperative agreements.

#### Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	5,739,286	5,468,552	5,951,394	5,709,776	6,249,710	6,230,134
Cash Fund	220,624	1,055,111	205,000	831,787	205,000	306,787
Federal Fund	392,705	210,000	422,000	467,556	422,000	471,594
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,352,615</b>	<b>6,733,663</b>	<b>6,578,394</b>	<b>7,009,119</b>	<b>6,876,710</b>	<b>7,008,515</b>

#### Performance Measures:

	Actual 2001-02	Estimated 2002-03	Estimated 2003-04
Water Rights Applications	182	225	250
Water Rights Hearings*	48	200	200
Well Registrations	7,265	7,200	7,200
Dam Inspections	438	450	500
Stream Gages			
Annual	70	70	70
Seasonal	90	100	100
Data Bases Managed	44	44	44

\* A significant increase is anticipated in fiscal years 2002-03 and 2003-04 because of the expected requirements of either a KS v NE settlement or court order.